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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/556,279	04/24/2000	Richard L. Hasha	40062.62US01	7999

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EXAMINER

DINH, KHANH Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/556,279

Applicant(s)

HASHA ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh Dinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 16-44, 46 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-15 and 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-47 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-9, 16-44, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maggenti et al., US pat. No.6,477,150.

As to claim 1, Maggenti discloses a method of implementing a network of devices (202, 204, 206 fig.2) connected to a shared media (Mobile Switching Center 220 fig.2), the devices being a part of a consumer electronic appliance, the method comprising:

forming a logical network on the shared media, the logical network including an address space arbiter (ASA) (Communication Manager CM 218 fig.2) coupled to the shared media, the logical network having a logical network ID (see abstract, figs.1, 2, col.4 line 48 to col.5 line 55 and col.17 lines 8-45).

adding a device (202 fig.2) to the logical network, the device being coupled to the shared media and configured to send and receive messages over the shared media, the

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device being responsive to messages sent over the shared media that are addressed to the logical network (using CM to maintain and distribute request arbitrations and registration list, see col.5 line 38 to col.6 line 61, col.7 line 31 to col.8 line 67 and col.11 line 44 to col.12 line 64).

As to claim 2, Maggenti discloses maintaining the logical network, wherein maintaining the logical network includes detecting and removing inactive devices from the logical network (see col.11 line 44 to col.12 line 64).

As to claim 3, Maggenti discloses discovering the device coupled to the shared medium by communication between the ASA and the device and acquiring the discovered device by operation of an acquisition authority (AA), the acquired device being a member of the logical network (i.e., using CM to grant or deny requests from users, see col.13 line 12 to col.14 line 67 and col.15 lines 5-62).

As to claim 4, Maggenti discloses adding a plurality of devices to the logical network, the plurality of devices being coupled to the shared media and configured to send and receive messages over the shared media, the plurality of devices being responsive to messages sent over the shared media that are addressed to the logical network (see also fig.6 and col.15 line 4 to col.16 line 63).

As to claim 5, Maggenti discloses forming a second logical network on the shared media by operation of a second ASA, members of the second logical network being configured

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to respond to messages carried on the shared media addressed to the second logical network and not to respond to messages carried on the shared media that are addressed to the logical network (i.e., providing a second administrative interface, see col.8 line 11 to col.9 line 14).

As to claim 6, Maggenti discloses shared media comprises a power-line of a building (see figs 3, 4 and col.9 line 15 to col.10 line 55).

As to claim 7, Maggenti discloses selecting an m number by operation of the ASA; broadcasting a message addressed to a logical network having the selected ID number as its logical network ID, monitoring the shared media for a response to the broadcasted message and adopting the selected m number as the logical network ID (using user IDs or network addresses, see col.10 line 20 to col.11 line 11 and col.17 line 7 to col.18 line 48).

As to claim 8, Maggenti discloses receiving a message from the device in the ASA and determining whether the device is unacquired devices (using information stored in the Net database, see col.17 line 7 to col.18 line 60).

As to claim 9, Maggenti discloses maintaining an acquired device table, wherein the acquired device table includes information of devices that are members of the logical network; maintaining an announced device table, wherein the announced device table includes information of discovered but unacquired devices (using information stored in the Net database, see col.17 line 7 to col.18 line 60 and col.20 lines 14-67).

As to claims 16 and 17, Maggenti discloses a process of an executing computer program, comparing elapsed time since the device last transmitted a message over the shared media to a predetermined maximum inactive time limit and removing the device from the logical network if the elapsed time exceeds the maximum inactive time limit (see col.13 line 12 to col.13 line 67 and col.16 lines 3-56).

As to claims 18-20, Maggenti discloses that before removing the device from the logical network, sending a message to the device and monitoring the shared media for a valid message from the device that is responsive to the message; and resetting the elapsed time if the device provides a valid responsive message within a predetermined time period; the device is configurable to set the maximum inactive time limit by sending a message to the ASA that includes a value for the maximum inactive time limit and a table that configured to store the elapsed time and the maximum inactive time period (see fig.11, col.13 line 12 to col.13 line 67 and col.16 lines 3-56).

As to claims 21, Maggenti discloses a method of communication between devices on a shared media, the shared media being configurable to support communication within one or more logical networks, each logical network having a logical network ID and each device having a globally unique identifier, a logical network identifier, and a logical device identifier, the method comprising:

coupling a sending device and a receiving device on the shared media (202, 204, 210 fig.2) formatting a message for transmission on the shared media (Communication

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Manager CM 218 fig.2) from the sending device to the receiving device, wherein the message includes:

a source logical network ID (source identity) field configurable to contain the logical network ID of the logical network of which the sending device is a member (see col.31 line 38 to col.32 line 53).

a source device ID field configurable to contain the logical device identifier, a destination logical network ID field configurable to contain the logical network ID of which the receiving device is a member (see fig.2, abstract, col.32 line 53 to col.33 line 54 and col.34 line 45 to col.35 line 46).

a destination device ID field configurable to contain the logical device ID of the receiving device, a message type field configurable to contain a code indicative of information contained in the message and a message data field configurable to contain data; and transmitting the message from the device over the shared media (using CM to maintain and distribute request arbitrations and registration list, see col.5 line 38 to col.6 line 61, col.7 line 31 to col.8 line 67 and col.39 line 10 to col.40 line 65).

As to claims 22, Maggenti discloses that the destination logical network ID field is configurable to contain a code representing all logical networks on the shared media network (see fig.6 and col.15 line 4 to col.16 line 63).

As to claims 23, Maggenti discloses that destination device ID field is configurable to contain a code representing all devices of the logical network indicated in the destination

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logical network ID field (see col.32 line 53 to col.33 line 54 and col.34 line 45 to col.35 line 46).

As to claims 24, Maggenti discloses that the source device ID field is configurable to contain a code representing that the sending device has no logical device ID (see col.32 line 53 to col.33 line 54 and col.34 line 45 to col.35 line 46).

As to claims 25, Maggenti discloses the source logical network m field is configurable to contain a code representing that the sending device is not a member of a logical network (using information stored in the Net database, see col.17 line 7 to col.18 line 60).

As to claim 26, Maggenti discloses a system for supporting communication between devices connected to a shared media, the devices being a part of a consumer electronic appliance, the system comprising:

a device (202 fig.2) coupled to the shared media (220 fig.2), wherein the device is configured to send and receive messages over the shared media (see abstract, col.7 line 58 to col.8 line 44).

an address space arbiter (ASA) (Communication Manager CM 218 fig.2) coupled to the shared media, the ASA being configurable to form a logical network with zero or more devices connected to the shared media ID (see figs.1, 2, col.4 line 48 to col.5 line 55 and col.17 lines 8-45).

and an arbitration authority (AA) (228 fig.2) at least intermittently coupled to the ASA, wherein the AA is configured to selectively authorize the ASA to add a device

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to the logical network, wherein the logical network has a logical network ID (user ID), the ASA and any devices of the logical network are configured to be responsive to messages sent over the shared media that are addressed to the logical network media (using CM to maintain and distribute request arbitrations and registration list, see col.5 line 38 to col.6 line 61, col.7 line 31 to col.8 line 67 and col.39 line 10 to col.40 line 65).

Claims 27, 29, 30, 33-38 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 2, 5, 6-10 and 19 respectively.

As to claims 28, 31 and 32, Maggenti discloses a process of an executing computer program, the ASA includes a control unit and the control unit is implemented with a computer system (see fig.2, col.4 line 26 to col.5 line 65 and col.32 line 53 to col.33 line 54).

Claim 39 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 1 and 2.

Claims 40-44 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 3 and 7-10 respectively.

Claims 46 and 47 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 39 and 40 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maggenti US pat. No.6,477,150 in view of Vert et al., US pat. No.6,360,331.

Maggenti's teachings still applied as in item 3 above. As to the added limitations, Maggenti discloses assigning a logical device identifier to the device and assigning the logical network ID as a logical network identifier to the device (see col.17 line 7 to col.18 line 49). Maggenti does not disclose adding globally unique identifier to acquired device table. However, Vert discloses adding the globally unique identifier to acquired device table, removing the device's logical device identifier and globally unique identifier from the announced device table (see col.11 line 10 to col.12 line 57 and col.13 lines 15-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize Vert's teachings into the computer system of Maggenti to register configuration data because it would have rapidly obtained the application configuration information and ensured a speedy transparent fail-over operation.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 11-15 and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the cited prior art discloses or teaches a method of implementing a network of devices connected to the shared media comprising:

receiving a message from the device over the shared media, the message including a globally unique identifier, a logical network identifier, and a logical device identifier.

comparing the device's globally unique identifier, logical network identifier, and logical device identifier to those of devices that are members of the logical network, the globally unique identifier, logical network identifier and logical device identifier of devices that are members of the logical network being stored in the acquired device table; and adding the device's globally unique identifier, logical network identifier and logical device identifier to the announced device table if the device's globally unique identifier is not stored in the acquired device table and the device's logical network identifier and logical device identifier indicate that the device is unacquired.

Other prior art cited

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Dobbins et al., US pat. No.5,825,772.

b. Miller et al., US pat. No.6,192,410.

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Conclusion

9. Claims 1-10, 12-44, 46 and 47 are rejected.
10. Claims 11 and 45 are objected.
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 308-8528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh, can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone numbers for this group are:

After Final: (703) 746-7239

Official: (703) 746-7239

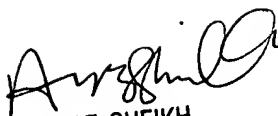
Non-Official/ Draft: (703) 746-7240

A shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire THREE months from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (35 U. S. C . Sect. 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(A).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 -9600.

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Khanh Dinh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2155
04/16/2003


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

